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U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
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Portland, OR 97205

Ten miles of the Willamette River have been targeted by the EPA for an aggressive cleanup plan that would involve dredging millions of cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the bottom of the river and transporting them to a landfill. This aggressive plan could take decades and would cost local taxpayers and companies millions of dollars. I have spent much of my life living and working in this community: I have lived in Portland for the last fifteen years, and before that I lived in Beaverton for forty-five years. Though I am now retired, I worked for Esco for thirty-seven years. Because of this experience, I know that the plan the EPA has proposed is not a plan that the local residents and businesses want, nor is it one that has our interests in mind.

The EPA estimated that the cleanup plan would cost close to \$750 million dollars. Before this estimate, in 2015, they estimated that it would cost nearly \$1.5 billion dollars. I'm against anything that makes costs to me go up, especially rising taxes; it would affect my wife and me a lot. We are senior citizens living on fixed incomes. If you want to know the truth, we already cannot afford Portland, but my wife has lived here since 1946. She has Alzheimer's and wouldn't adjust to changes very well if we moved or were forced to leave by rising costs. We simply cannot afford the increased taxes that the EPA's plan would cause, and I know that we are not alone. Furthermore, the government and the EPA frequently underestimate costs. It is probably going to take a lot more money and time than they think, and this is an unacceptable bill for Portland residents to pay.

I'm fairly skeptical of what the EPA proposes to begin with, and this skepticism is only strengthened by the fact that they've chosen to ignore recent studies that show that natural processes in the river are already heavily reducing contaminants. Letting these natural processes continue to work wouldn't cost local residents a dime or disrupt businesses that depend on the river. Many companies, like Esco - a company that's been here for over one hundred years, are already closing or leaving Portland, and I believe that increasing taxes are a big reason why. We need to put local businesses and residents first and not move forward with a plan that would cost so much.

Sincerely,

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